

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-12 (canceled).

13. (currently amended) A method for obtaining a transplastomic plant comprising the steps of:

- a) introducing into a plastid of a plant cell a recombinant nucleic acid construct comprising a promoter functional in a plant cell plastid, a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein providing for tolerance to a glyphosate resistant EPSPS ~~plastid lethal compound~~ and a transcriptional termination region functional in a plant cell plastid,
- b) placing said plant cell into which said nucleic acid construct has been introduced on a first culture medium comprising a sublethal amount of glyphosate ~~a plastid lethal compound corresponding to said protein providing for tolerance~~ for a period of time sufficient to permit said plant cell to replicate, and
- c) placing said plant cell on a second culture medium comprising glyphosate ~~said plastid lethal compound~~ for a period of time sufficient to select plant cells capable of growing in the presence of said ~~plastid lethal compound~~ glyphosate; and
- d) regenerating a transplastomic plant from said plant cells that grow in said second culture medium.

14. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said ~~nucleic acid sequence encodes for a protein providing tolerance to a herbicide, an inhibitor of a plastid metabolic pathway, a protease, or a nuclease~~ glyphosate resistant EPSPS is CP4.

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said nucleic acid construct further comprises regions of plastid homology.

19. (original) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said plant cell is selected on said first culture medium for less than about 12 weeks.

20. (original) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said plant cell is selected on said first culture medium for less than about 8 weeks.

21. (original) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said plant cell is selected on said first culture medium for less than about 4 weeks.

22. (original) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said plant cell is selected on said first culture medium for less than about 3 weeks.